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BOOK REVIEWS

IN CHARGE OF

M. E. CAMERON, R. N.

BLACK'S MEDICAL DICTIONARY. By John D. Comrie, M.A., B.Sc., M.D., F.R.C.P. Edinburgh. Lecturer on History of Medicine, University of Edinburgh; Lecturer on Clinical Medicine, University of Edinburgh; Assistant Physician, Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh; Assistant Physician, Deaconess Hospital, Edinburgh; Editor of "Edinburgh Medical Series." Fifth Edition, completing thirty thousand, containing 431 illustrations and 12 plates in color. New York, the Macmillan Company; London, Adam and Charles Black.

This book may better be described as an abridged encyclopedia of medicine rather than by its given title of "Dictionary." There is no claim made that the book includes all the latest words introduced into medicine and surgery. Its text is largely made up from the articles contributed to the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, which have been brought up to date and copiously revised by the author. It is intended for the use of the unskilled who may find themselves forced to assume the duties of doctor or nurse. "Brief notices of anatomy or physiology precede the lists of diseases to which the various bodily organs are liable. They have been designed mainly with the object of making clear to the reader what are the normal functions and how these are affected by disease. With regard to such practically important matters as those in which the unskilled person can safely be trusted to render aid to the injured and to increase the comfort of the sick, full details have been given. It is hoped therefore, that these articles will be found useful to district nurses, ship captains, dwellers in remote districts and others who may be called upon to treat the suffering in the absence of trained supervision. Those subjects, on the contrary, which are of a more theoretical and intricate nature are sketched only in outline. In this connection too, it may be noted, that almost no reference has been made to diagnosis, a highly technical matter, which lies entirely within the province of the trained medical man." This rather extensive transcript from the text shows admirably what the book aims to do and the ground it covers.